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ER-3-8870/A

APR 11 1953

The Honorable Robert Cutler
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Reference is made to your inquiry of 27 March 1953, based on the attached copy of the reprint on "Project Cirrus." CIA has been interested in weather modification developments since August, 1950, and it is agreed that artificial rain-making might well have strategic uses.

At the present time the bulk of the Government-sponsored research is monitored by the Department of Defense under the guidance of Admiral Calvin M. Bolster, Chief of the Office of Naval Research, Department of the Navy. Since Admiral Bolster is also a member of the CIA Research Board, he is well acquainted with our requirements, and the program as developed by his committee includes projects responsive to our needs.

Although it is true that rain-making on a large scale is now an accomplished fact, many aspects of the knowledge of the cause and effect involved and the ability to make quantitative forecasts of the results of such operations have not reached a point where these operations could be undertaken on a strategic scale. On the other hand, I am informed that the present research program is proceeding satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,

NSC REVIEWED 6/13/07 NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE AS

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Attachment:
Reprint, "Project Cirrus"
Ltr dtd 27 Mar 53, Cutler to DCI

DOCUMENT NO. 9
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Rewritten: DCI/JSE/mth (9 Apr 53)

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR of CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

DATE:

FROM : Acting Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Letter to the Honorable Robert Cutler

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1. Attached is a response to Mr. Cutler's letter of 27 March, in which he enclosed a copy of the General Electric reprint on "Project Cirrus; The Story of Cloud Seeding. "

2. The attached letter, for your signature, comments generally on the status of rain-making research, points out that the Department of Defense is monitoring the bulk of Government-sponsored research in the field, and that Admiral C. M. Bolster, of the Office of Naval Research, is guiding this research.

3. Recommend that you approve and sign the attached letter.

STAT

RICHARD HELMS

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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March 27, 1953

NSC REVIEWED 6/13/07 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND

Dear Allen:

I would appreciate obtaining the views of some of your experts on the subject matter of this letter, at your convenience. There is no hurry about this matter, but if there is anything in it I should like to bring it to the attention of the President during the next month. On the other hand, if qualified people think that there is no merit in the idea, I would be disposed not to carry it further.

Attached is a November 1952 publication by the General Electric Company entitled "Project Cirrus, The Story of Cloud Seeding". This publication indicates that rain-making on a large scale is now an accomplished fact. The total amount of rain that fell in New Mexico as a result of seeding on one day, July 21, 1949, was 1600 million tons.


I have been told that the Armed Forces are giving some attention to the tactical use of artificial rain-making - such as hampering air or tank operations in a limited area.

Has any consideration been given to the strategic use of artificial rain-making as a major cold war weapon? What would be the scientific advice relative to the feasibility of artificial rain-making on a colossal scale? Such objectives occur to one's mind as the following: flooding the Soviet satellites; depriving a Soviet satellite or constituent republic of needed rain-fall; destroying an annual crop harvest.

The by-product possibilities of such warfare in the nature of increased peasant disaffection and recrimination among party bosses would be great. Eventual discovery of what was being done might act as a major deterrent on the enemy. Of course one would have to reckon with the enemy's knowledge or applying the technique against us.

Very likely this matter has already been considered, and there is some ready answer to the questions I am raising. In any event, I should be glad to hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,


ROBERT CUTLER
Special Assistant
to the President

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.